RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 14th March, 1989/23rd Phalguna, 1910 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

*261. [*The Questoiner (Shri Vishwasrao Ramrao Patil) was absent For answer* vide *col.* 35 *infra.*]

Acquisition of Ships for the Coast Guard

*262. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to acquire more ships for the Coast Guard at Visakhpatnam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Base on operational requirements and the gradual build-up of the Coast Guard force level, the additions envisaged at Visakhapatnam comprise the following:—

(a)	Off-shore Patrol Vessel	— 1
(b)	In-shore Patrol Vessel	— 1
(c)	Interceptor Boats	— 2

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, with the sea coast of nearly 7000 kilometres in length and the maritime economic zone of 28 lakh square kilometres, the Coast Guard was formed as long back as 1977 with 1000 officers and men, more than 50 per cent being recruited on deputation from NAVY The annual recruitment is 40 to 45 officers and 222 sailers. The Government envisaged the Coast Guard as a primary force and a watchdog to contain smuggling and to safeguard our sea waters. How it the Coast Guard going to be supplemented with shore batteries, long range missile system and the like?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, the Coast Guard is now doing very useful operations in our coasts. During 1988, the Coast Guard apprehended 31 foreign fishing trawlers with 434 crew for their involvement in illegal fishing activities in our waters. If the hon. Member wants to know the names of the countries, I can also give the names. The force level has been increased. We have added to our ships in the Coast Guard. We have strengthened it.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: We are on the defensive with our neighbouring countries as well as China. Under the circumstances, what is the thinking of the Government regarding the Coast Guard? Are we going to strengthen it or are we going to spend less on it? What is the present thinking of the Government regarding the Coast Guard?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, as I just mentioned, we are strengthening our Coast Guard. So far as the budgetary provision is concerned, in 1985-86 we provided only 58.94 crores. In 1989-90, we have provided Rs. 159.08 to strgnethen the Coast Guard. Similarly, we have increased the level of our force. We have increased officers, sailors and also the civilians. The Coast Guard has done wonderful work in providing assistance in the Srilankan operations also. So far as checking illegal fishing is concerned, they have done very good work. Even in checking smuggling, the Coast Guard have done very very important and useful work and added to our revenue in good measure. They are doing good work.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, the Director-General of the Coast Guard has gone on record saying that the growth and development of the Coast Guard is about 5 years

behind schedule because of financial constraints. At the same time, we know that in the last six months of this financial year alone, the Coast Guard have proved economically viable. They made seizures of about Rs. 28 crores. It was only during the last six months of the financial year. In that view of the matter, does the Government propose to acquire further ships? There are about 25 ships now. There are also records to show that the ships are not adequate in rough monsoon weather. They need ships of greater tonnage of about 1500 tonnes. They also need better quality of helicopters and not just Dornier aircraft. The Coast Guard is economically viable. It is probably the only part of the Defence Department which is economically viable in itself. Is there any proposal to increase the capacity of the Coast Guard and is there any proposal for closer coordination with the Revenue Department so that smuggling activities are held in check by this coordination?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): I don't think the question of economic viability enters into this. The functions are there and whether it is economically viable or not, the Coast Guard has to perform the functions which have been outlined by my colleague. So far as anti-smuggling activities are concerned, actually they have been more successful than what the hon. Member mentioned. In 1988, the seizure of contrabands amounted to almost 60 crores of rupees. In January and February, 1989, the Coast Gaurd ships made successful seizures of contrabands amounting to 7.7 crores of rupees. This is very good work and we are glad that these seizures have helped the customs authorities. But the hon. Member is quite right. There should be close coordination between the Coast Guard and the customs authorities. To the best of my knowledge, they work together very closely. I have not heard anything to the contrary. So far as the ships are concerned, I can give the details. If one had more ships, it would strengthen the Coast Guards, and it is a long coastline, and one would like to strengthen the Coast Guards further. There is a programme of ships under construction. But one has to keep the resources position in mind. So far as the claims are concerned, Dornier is doing good work. I see no reason to criticise the Dornier.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Coast Guard, as the name suggests, has to guard the coast, and smuggling being one of the activities. Now, if the Coast Guards guard the coast, would the hon. Minister explain why it is headquartered in New Delhi already an overcrowded Delhi and why not take the headquarters of the Coast Guards to a more congenial and more effective place.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, whenever anybody is asked to go out of Delhi, he finds Delhi more congenial...

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: To gaurd the coast, why is it in Delhi?

SHRI K. C. PANT:...and this includes officers of the Coast Guards. So, while there is some substance in what the hon. Member says, there is, on the other side a great deal of co-ordination with other Departments, whether it is the Naval Headquarters or the Customs Headquarters and so on. It is better done in Delhi. But, actually, as far as I know, the headquarters is supposed to shift outside Delhi and go to Ghaziabad. It is not much of a difference But, nevertheless, the point which the hon. Member is making has some weight in it. But there is a lot of pressure of convenience on the other side also. So, one has to take both into account.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, what are the countries mostly concerned in the territorial offence which are being

detected by the Coast Guards and what action has been taken against those countries?

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, so far as poaching is concerned, most of the fishing trawlers are of Pakistan and Taiwan. 18 are of Pakistan, 8 are of Taiwan, two of Bangladesh, one of Thailand, one of Burma and one is unknown.

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: What action has been taken? That is my second question.

SHRI K. C. PANT: What usually happens is that the Coast Guards catch the trawlers and bring them into the port and the crew is put behind the bars and then cases are launched. The fish is impounded. And this is the kind of activities which goes on. Sometimes our trawlers are also captured. There are exchanges. This is what goes on most of the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 263.

Drugs allowed for marketing for treatment of Dysentery and Diarrhoea

*263. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: †

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the drugs allowed for marketing in the country both in single ingredient and in combination with other drugs for the treatment of Dysentery and Diarrhoea;

(b) whether any of these drugs have side effects and are hazardous;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any of these drugs are banned for use; if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether control of Diarrhoea is one of the National Health Programmes; and

(f) if so, the names of the medicines purchased by Government for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The names of the popular drugs marketted in the country both in single ingredient and in combination with other drugs for the treatment of dysentery and diarhoea along with the details if possible side effects are annexed.

The Clioquino group of drugs are reported to be banned in Japan and some other countries on the ground of peripheral neuropathy, blurred vision leading in blindness, Sub-myelo optio neuropathy (SMON). Furazalidone is also reported to be banned in Japan on the ground that safer and more effective anti-diarroheal drugs are available in that country. However, both these drugs remain widely available in many other countries.

Under the Programme for Control of Diarrhoea, Government of India does not directly buy drugs but allocates money to the States and Union Territories for education and training and purchase of Oral Dehydration Salts.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dhuleshwar Meena.